

June 28, 2001

Dr. Barbara Carpenter
Mississippi Humanities Council
3825 Ridgewood Road, Room 311
Jackson, Mississippi 39211-6463

Dear Dr. Carpenter:

This letter is to state my support for the Mississippi Humanities Council's grant proposal to write the *Mississippi Encyclopedia*. I have great confidence that the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, and the University Press of Mississippi will produce a volume that will do justice to the state's history and culture.

The *Encyclopedia* will be an excellent tool for teachers and students in our schools. It should be useful for librarians and people in government, business and industry, journalism, and tourism. Such a volume can help Mississippians, both today and in the future, understand more about their complex, unique characteristics and history. It can also help people outside the state better understand the range of experience and creativity in Mississippi. Because Mississippi is a fascinating place, the *Encyclopedia* should be a fascinating book that looks at history, politics, art, literature, music and everything that makes the state special.

The *Mississippi Encyclopedia* should be an excellent way to merge the humanities programming efforts of the Mississippi Humanities Council with the academic goals of the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture. I feel sure the Mississippi Humanities Council and the people responsible for the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* can produce a book we can all learn from and enjoy.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/kfg

cc: Dr. Andy Mullins